

Blues hit five

Wycombe Wanderers 5,
Dunstable Town 1
By Stuart Earp

WYCOMBE Wanderers took their tally of pre-season friendly victories to four out of five on Tuesday night when they overcame Southern League Dunstable at Loakes Park. During those friendlies they have rattled up 14 goals and one of those scored on Tuesday must go down as one of the best of the season.

Alan Davies was the scorer with a swerving right foot drive to put the Blues 4-1 up and the new signing is unlikely to score a better one this term.

Manager Ted Powell was using this last warm-up game to field his strongest side as well as giving first games of the season to Dylan Evans and Mick Holifield. And he must have been well pleased with the outcome.

Although the 5-1 scoreline is a trifle unjust to Dunstable, Wycombe were good value on the night and once again produced the sort of free flowing, attacking football that will stand them in good stead for the league season. Particularly impressive were Davies, Ian Pearson and Howard Kennedy, the latter enjoying a tremendous game in midfield which might have clinched him a place in tomorrow's (Saturday's) team for Tooting.

The Blues had one or two problems at the back where Alan Phillips and Keith Mead took time to get going but Paul Birdseye looked in peak form, especially at right back where he seems to express himself more freely than on the left.

Wanderers gave an indication of their all out attacking policy after only two minutes via the right boot of Kennedy. John Priestley touched a free kick to Howard who let fly from 25 yards and saw goalkeeper Steel palm the ball over the top.

It took just nine minutes to open the account when Holifield capped his return with a goal scored after Evans and Mick Sorenson combined on the bottom wing. Two minutes later it was 2-0 when Evans lost possession inside the box. The ball seemed to be rolling towards Steel when John Priestley arrived from nowhere, took the ball wide and then crossed towards the goalline. The angle looked impossible but somehow the ball found its way into the net — just reward for another brave performance from the Carnegie College man.

Dunstable full back Ianonne sent a prodigious 30 yard free kick just over the top in the 20th minute and the visitors pulled the score back to 2-1 when Taylor drove home a shot after running through on the blind side of the defence.

Wycombe went off the boil until half time, their close passing game coming unstuck through inaccurate distribution. Just before the break, Ianonne cleared off the line from a Mead header.

Mead was soon in action on the other goalline four minutes into the new half when he headed a thunderous shot from Griffiths away after Peter Spittle had failed to gather the ball.

Wycombe soon regained their early confidence, however, and went 3-1 up after Steel had turned an Alan Davies drive away for a corner. The goalkeeper dropped Holifield's flag kick and Phillips crashed the ball home past two defenders on the line.

Dunstable were by no means finished and kept the home defence on their toes. They persisted in trying long range shots which were remarkably accurate but two late goals finally finished them off.

Davies' super goal came after 81 minutes. The ball was half cleared by the defence and despite being slightly off balance, Davies sent a crashing shot past Steel from the edge of the box. An own goal by Lawson, when he turned Pearson's cross-shot into his own net, sealed Dunstable's fate in the 90th minute.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell (sub P. Spittle 45 mins); M. Sorenson (sub R. Davies 45 mins); K. Mead, A. Phillips, P. Birdseye; A. Davies, H. Kennedy, M. Holifield (sub G. Fraser 70 mins); I. Pearson, D. Evans (sub S. Pratt 72 mins), J. Priestley.

DUNSTABLE: G. Steel; A. Oanonne, Millette, P. Robinson, K. Hull; B. Melial (sub S. Woolgar 45 mins), D. Lawson, T. Russell; M. Griffiths (sub Melial 77 mins); H. Kettleborough, A. Taylor.

Referee: D. Hedges.

Half-time: 2-1. **Goal-scorers:** Wycombe: Holifield (9), Priestley (10), Phillips (55), A. Davies (81), Lawson o.g. (90), Dunstable: Taylor (24).

Attendance: 400.